

Public Transportation Glossary & Acronyms

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

AASHTO - American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

ABA - American Bus Association

accessibility - The extent to which facilities are barrier-free and usable by people with disabilities, including those using wheelchairs. (APTA)

accessible station - A public transportation passenger station that provides ready access, is useable and does not have physical barriers that prohibit and/or restrict access by people with disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs. (FTA)

accessible vehicle - Public transportation revenue vehicles, which do not restrict access, are useable and provide allocated space and/or priority seating for people who use wheelchairs. (FTA)

active vehicle - Transit passenger vehicle that is licensed, where required, and maintained for regular use, including spares and vehicles out of service for maintenance purposes, but excluding vehicles in "dead" storage, leased to other operators, in energy contingency reserve status, permanently not usable for transit service and new vehicles not yet outfitted for active service. (APTA)

active vehicles in fleet - The vehicles in the year-end fleet that are available to operate in revenue service, including vehicles temporarily out of service for routine maintenance and minor repairs. (FTA)

adaptive re-use - Renovation of a building or site to include elements that allow a particular use or uses to occupy a space that originally was intended for a different use.

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991

advanced public transportation systems - (or APTS) Intelligent Vehicle Highway Systems, or IVHS, technology that is designed to improve transit services through advanced vehicle operations, communications, customer service and market development. (APTA)

aerial tramway - An electric system of aerial cables with suspended unpowered passenger vehicles. The vehicles are propelled by separate cables attached to the vehicle suspension system and powered by engines or motors at a central location not on board the vehicle. (APTA, FTA)

AFV - Alternatively fueled vehicle

air pollutants - Any substance in the air, which could, if present in high enough concentration, harm humans, animals, vegetation or material. Pollutants may include almost any natural or artificial composition of matter that is capable of becoming airborne. The composition may be in the form of solid particles, liquid droplets, gases or in combinations of these forms. Generally, air pollutants are divided into two major groups: 1) those emitted directly from identifiable sources and 2) those produced in the air by interaction among two or more primary pollutants or reaction with normal atmospheric constituents, with or without photoactivation of the sun. Exclusive of pollen, fog and dust, which are of natural origin, nearly 100 contaminants are identified in these categories: solids, sulfur compounds, volatile organic chemicals, nitrogen compounds, oxygen compounds, halogen compounds, radioactive compounds and odors. (NCDOT)

air quality control region - An area, designated by the federal government, where communities share a common air pollution problem. Several states may be involved in a single area.

air quality criteria - The levels of pollution and lengths of exposure above which adverse health and/or welfare effects may occur. (NCDOT)

air quality standards - The level of pollutants, prescribed by regulations, that may not be exceeded during a specific time in a defined area. (NCDOT)

allocation - The administrative distribution of funds which do not have prescribed statutory distribution formulas.

alternative fuels - Low-polluting fuels that are used to propel a vehicle instead of high-sulfur diesel or gasoline. Examples include methanol, ethanol, propane or compressed natural gas (CNG), liquid natural gas (LNG), low-sulfur or "clean" diesel and electricity. (APTA)

Amalgamated Transit Union - (or ATU) A major labor union representing workers in the transit industry; membership is limited to operators, mechanics and other non-supervisory employees of the transit industry. (APTA)

American Public Transportation Association - (or APTA) A nonprofit international association of 1,600 member organizations including public transportation systems; planning, design, construction and finance firms; product and service providers; academic institutions; and state associations and departments of transportation. (APTA)

Americans with Disabilities Act - (of 1991) Legislation defining the responsibilities of and requirements for transportation providers to make transportation accessible to people with disabilities. (FTA) A federal law that assures that people with disabilities have full access to all public facilities throughout the United States. Standards for improvements such as wheelchair ramps have been established in accordance with the act. All new development and redevelopment plans must be in compliance with the requirements set forth by the act.

a.m. peak period - Period of time in the morning when additional services are provided to handle higher passenger volumes. The period begins when normal, scheduled headways are reduced and ends when headways return to normal.

Amtrak – The working brand name for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, a for-profit corporation that operates intercity passenger rail services in 46 states and the District of Columbia, in addition to serving as a contractor in various capacities for several commuter rail agencies. Amtrak was created by Congress in the Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970 and incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1971, assuming the common carrier obligations of the private railroads (which found passenger service to be generally unprofitable) in exchange for the right to priority access of their tracks for incremental cost. (USDOT)

annual element - Transportation improvement projects contained in an area's transportation improvement program, or TIP, that are proposed for implementation during the current year. The annual element is submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation as part of the required planning process. (APTA)

apportionment - A law that refers to a statutorily prescribed division or assignment of funds. An apportionment is based on prescribed formulas in the law and consists of dividing authorized obligation authority for a specific program.

appropriations act - A law passed by the Congress and signed by the president which makes funds available for expenditures with specific limitations as to amount, purpose and duration. In most cases, it permits money previously authorized to be obligated and payments to be made.

APTA - American Public Transportation Association

APTS - Advanced Public Transportation System

arterial street - A major thoroughfare, used primarily for through traffic rather than for access to adjacent land, that is characterized by high vehicular capacity and continuous movement. (APTA) Roadways designed to move large volumes of traffic between various points within a region. Typically these roadways have limited access and connect with smaller collector streets.

articulated bus - **1.** A bus usually 55 feet or more in length with two connected passenger compartments, that bends at the connecting point when the bus turns a corner. (APTA) **2.** Extra-long (54 feet - 60 feet) motor bus with the rear body section connected to the main body by a joint mechanism. The joint mechanism allows the vehicle to bend when in operation for sharp turns and curves, and yet to have a continuous interior. (FTA)

authorization act - Basic substantive legislation or other action which empowers an agency to implement a particular program and also establishes an upper limit on the amount of funds that can be appropriated for that program.

auto-oriented development - Development that is designed with an emphasis on access and parking by personal vehicles. This type of development is characterized by large surface parking lots, wide streets, few or no sidewalks and long distances between buildings. Auto-oriented sites typically are designed with buildings sufficiently "set back" away from streets and property boundaries in order to allow parking to surround the buildings, thereby discouraging pedestrian access. Building entrances often open to parking areas rather than streets, making pedestrian access less desirable.

auto-restricted zone - (or ARZ) An area in which normal automobile traffic is prohibited or limited to certain times, and vehicular traffic is restricted to public transit, emergency vehicles, taxicabs and, in some cases, delivery of goods. (APTA)

automated guideway transit - Guided transit vehicles operating singly or in multi-car trains with a fully automated system (no crew on transit units). Service may be on a fixed schedule or in response to a passenger-activated call button. Automated guideway transit includes personal rapid transit, group rapid transit and people-mover systems. (FTA)

automatic fare collection system - (or AFC) A system of controls and equipment that automatically admits passengers following insertion of the correct fare in coins, tokens, tickets or farecards. It also may include special equipment for transporting and counting revenues. (APTA)

automatic vehicle location - (or AVL) A system that senses, at intervals, the location of vehicles carrying special electronic equipment that communicates a signal back to a central control facility. (TRB)

automatic vehicle monitoring - A system in which electronic equipment on a vehicle sends signals back to a central control facility, locating the vehicle and providing other information about its operations or about its mechanical condition. (TRB)

auxiliary equipment - Any particular item of equipment added to a vehicle to aid or contribute to the vehicle's operation and/or mission.

AVAS - Automated voice annunciator system

AVI - Automated vehicle identification

AVM - Automatic vehicle monitoring

B

balanced transportation - Another term for "intermodalism."

base period - The period between the morning and evening peak periods when transit service is generally scheduled on a constant interval. Also known as "off-peak period." (APTA)

base fare - The price charged to one adult for one transit ride; excludes transfer charges, zone charges, express service charges, peak period surcharges and reduced fares. (APTA)

bi-fueled vehicle - Vehicles that have the capacity to operate using two different fuels, such as CNG and diesel or CNG and gasoline.

bike-and-ride - Activity involving the use of a bicycle in conjunction with another type of transportation such as public transit. Typically, bike-and-ride facilities include bicycle storage areas adjacent to transit stops, giving transit riders the option of traveling to the stops without the use of a motorized vehicle.

BOT - Board of Transportation

broker - A person who arranges transportation for another. Also see "transportation broker."

budget authority - Empowerment by Congress that allows federal agencies to incur obligations to spend or lend money. This empowerment generally is in the form of appropriations from general revenues to the U.S. Treasury. However, for discretionary programs, it is in the form of "contract authority" derived from the Trust Fund Resource.

budget resolution - A federal budgetary term that refers to a concurrent resolution passed by both Houses of Congress, but not requiring the signature of the president, setting forth the congressional budget for each of five fiscal years. The budget resolution sets forth various budget total and functional allocations, and may include reconciliation instructions to designated congressional committees. (APTA)

bus - **1.** Any of several types of self-propelled vehicles, generally rubber-tired, intended for use on city streets, highways and busways, including, but not limited to, minibuses, 40 and 30-foot buses, articulated buses, double-deck buses and electrically powered trolley buses, used by public entities to provide designated public transportation service and by private entities to provide transportation service including, but not limited to, specified public transportation services. Self-propelled vehicles designed to look like antique or vintage trolleys are considered buses. (49CFR37) **2.** Any motor vehicle designed, constructed and/or used for the transportation of passengers, including taxicabs. (49CFR390) **3.** A vehicle designed to carry more than 10 passengers, including school buses, intercity buses and transit buses. (49CFR571) Also see "motor bus."

bus charter service - (except local bus charter service) Establishments primarily engaged in furnishing passenger transportation charter service where such operations are principally outside a single municipality, outside one contiguous group of municipalities or outside a single municipality and its suburbs. (BOC)

bus discretionary capital - Federal funding granted under Section 5309 of the Federal Transit Act. These discretionary funds are used for bus-related construction projects or to replace, rehabilitate or purchase buses. (APTA)

bus lane - A street or highway lane primarily for buses, either all day or during specific periods, but sometimes also used by carpools meeting requirements set out in traffic laws. (APTA)

buspool - See "vanpool."

bus shelter - A building or other structure constructed near a bus stop, to provide seating and protection from the weather for the convenience of waiting passengers. (APTA)

bus stop - A place where passengers can board or alight from the bus, usually identified by a sign. (APTA) A point along local, feeder, shuttle or express bus routes at which passengers load or unload.

busway - **1.** Exclusive freeway lane for buses and carpools. (APTA) **2.** A roadway reserved for buses only. It may be a grade-separated or controlled-access roadway. (FTA)

C

CAA - Clean Air Act

CAAA - Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990

cable car - **1.** An electric railway operating in mixed street traffic with unpowered, individually controlled transit vehicles propelled by moving cables located below the street surface and powered by engines or motors not on board the vehicle. (APTA) **2.** Streetcar type of passenger vehicle operating by means of an attachment to a moving cable located below the street surface and powered by engines or motors at a central location not on board the vehicles. (FTA)

CAD - Computer-aided dispatch

capital assistance - Financial assistance for transit capital expenses (not operating costs); such aid may originate with federal, local or state governments. (APTA)

capital costs - Costs of long-term assets of a public transit system such as property, buildings, vehicles, etc. (APTA)

Capital Program funds - Financial assistance from the Capital Program of 49 U.S.C. (formerly Section 3). The Capital Program enables the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to make discretionary capital grants and loans to finance public transportation projects divided among fixed-guideway (rail) modernization; construction of new fixed-guideway systems and extensions to fixed-guideway systems; and replacement, rehabilitation and purchase of buses and rented equipment, and construction of bus-related facilities. (FTA)

carbon dioxide - See "CO₂."

carbon monoxide - See "CO."

carpool - An arrangement by which two or more people share the use and cost of privately owned automobiles in traveling to and from pre-arranged destinations together. (APTA) Generally, carpooling agreements are not arranged by contract, whereas vanpool and buspool agreements are contractually binding.

catchment area - Area from which primary transit ridership is drawn.

catenary - An overhead contact wire system which supplies power from a central power source to an electric vehicle, such as a trolley bus. (APTA)

CBD - Central business district

CCTV - Closed-circuit television

CDL - Commercial driver license

CE (categorical exclusion) - A document that examines the environmental impacts of a project to a lesser extent than an EA or EIS.

central business district (CBD) - The downtown retail trade and commercial area of a city or an area of very high land valuation, traffic flow, and concentration of retail business offices, theaters, hotels and services. (APTA)

central city - Usually one or more legally incorporated cities within the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) that is significantly large by itself or large relative to the largest city in the MSA. Additional criteria for being classified as a "Central City" include having at least 75 jobs for each 100 employed residents and having at least 40 percent of the resident workers employed within the city limits. Every MSA has at least one central city, usually the largest city. Central cities commonly are regarded as relatively large communities with denser population and a higher concentration of economic activities than the outlying or suburban areas of the MSA. "Outside Central City" are those parts of the MSA not designated as central city. (DOE)

CFR - U.S. Code of Federal Regulations

CFV - Clean fuel vehicle

charter bus - A bus transporting a group of persons who, pursuant to a common purpose and under a single contract at a fixed price, have acquired the exclusive use of a bus to travel together under an itinerary. (APTA)

charter service - A vehicle hired for exclusive use that does not operate over a regular route or on a regular schedule and is not available to the general public. (FTA)

charter service – hours - The total hours traveled/operated by a revenue vehicle while in charter service. Charter service hours include hours traveled/operated while carrying passengers for hire, plus associated deadhead hours. (FTA)

circulator bus - A bus serving an area confined to a specific locale, such as a downtown area or suburban neighborhood, with connections to major traffic corridors. (APTA)

Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 - (or CAAA) The comprehensive federal legislation that establishes criteria for attaining and maintaining the federal standards for allowable concentrations and exposure limits for various air pollutants; the act also provides emission standards for specific vehicles and fuels. (APTA)

clean fuel vehicle - Vehicle meeting the clean fuel vehicle exhaust emissions standards with no restriction on vehicle type. (DOE)

CMAQ - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (Improvement Program): A federal highway fund category for projects intended to improve air quality.

CMS - Congestion management system

CMSA - Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area

CNG - Compressed natural gas

CO - Carbon monoxide: A colorless, odorless, highly toxic gas that is a normal by-product of incomplete fossil fuel combustion. Carbon monoxide, one of the major air pollutants, can be harmful if breathed over a certain period of time. (DOE)

CO₂ - Carbon dioxide: A colorless, odorless, nonpoisonous gas that is a normal part of the ambient air. Carbon dioxide is a product of fossil fuel combustion. (DOE)

Code of Federal Regulations - A compilation of the general and permanent rules of the executive departments and agencies of the federal government of the United States as published in the Federal Register. The code is divided into 50 titles representing broad areas of federal regulation. (DOE)

collector street - Roadway that serves internal traffic movements in an area by connecting several local streets with an arterial roadway.

community transportation - The efficient and effective utilization of all available resources in the provision of safe and reliable public transportation services for all citizens. (NCDOT)

commute - Regular travel between home and a fixed location (e.g., work or school). (TRB)

commuter - A person who travels regularly between home and work or home and school. (APTA)

commuter authority - Any state, local, regional authority, corporation or other entity established for purposes of providing commuter rail transit and any entity created by one or more such agencies for the purpose of operating or contracting for the operation of commuter rail transit. (49CFR37)

commuter bus service - Fixed-route bus characterized by service predominantly in one direction during peak periods, limited stops, use of multi-ride tickets and routes of extended length, usually between the central business district and outlying suburbs. Commuter bus service also may include other service, characterized by a limited route structure, limited stops and a coordinated relationship with another mode of transportation. (49CFR37)

commuter lane - Another term for "high-occupancy vehicle lane." (APTA)

commuter rail service - **1.** Long-haul rail passenger service operating between metropolitan and suburban areas, whether within or across the geographical boundaries of a state, usually characterized by reduced fares for multiple rides and commutation tickets for regular, recurring riders. Also, urban passenger train service for short-distance travel between a central city or cities and adjacent suburbs. Does not include heavy rail or light rail service. (FTA) **2.** Railroad local and regional passenger train operations between a central city, its suburbs and/or another central city. It may be locomotive-hauled or self-propelled, and it is characterized by multi-trip tickets, specific station-to-station fares, railroad employment practices and usually only one or two stations in the central business district(s). Also called "suburban rail." (APTA)

commuter train - **1.** A short-haul passenger train operating on track which is part of the general railroad system of transportation, within an urban, suburban or metropolitan area. It includes a passenger train provided by an instrumentality of a state or political subdivision thereof. (49CFR221) **2.** Includes commuter trains and passenger trains other than elevated trains and subways. Includes local and commuter train service. Does not include intercity service by Amtrak. (FHWA)

compact neighborhoods - Higher-density development in which a variety of land uses are located such that residents and workers are within walking distance of many destinations.

compressed natural gas - Natural gas that is comprised primarily of methane, compressed to a pressure at or above 2,400 pounds per square inch and stored in special high-pressure containers. It is used as a fuel for natural gas-powered vehicles. (DOE) CNG vapor is lighter than air. (APTA)

conformity - The ongoing federal process that ensures the planning for highway and transit systems, as a whole and over the long term, is consistent with the state air quality plans for attaining and maintaining health-based air quality standards; conformity is determined by metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), and is based on whether transportation plans and programs meet the provisions of a State Implementation Plan. (APTA)

conformity analysis - Demonstration that the area will not exceed allowable motor vehicle emissions budgets when the projects planned in the MTIP and LRTP are implemented.

conformity finding - A determination that the LRTP or MTIP is consistent with a valid conformity analysis.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality - (or CMAQ) Federal funds available for either transit or highway projects which contribute significantly to reducing automobile emissions which cause air pollution. (APTA)

consolidated human-service transportation system - There are two types: 1) those which provide their own services, which are operated by the lead public transportation agency in the county to provide transportation services to other human service agencies on a contractual basis, and 2) those which contract for services, which are administered by the lead public transportation agency in the county under contracts with the private operators, by which transportation service is provided to human service agencies on a contractual basis by the private operator. (NCDOT)

consolidated metropolitan statistical area - A metropolitan complex of one million or more population, containing two or more component parts designated as primary metropolitan statistical areas, or PMSAs. (FHWA)

contract authority - A form of budget authority that permits obligations to be made in advance of appropriations. The federal Discretionary Grants program is funded from contract authority, subject to an obligation limitation.

contraflow lane - Reserved lane for buses on which the direction of bus traffic is opposite to the flow of traffic on the other lanes. (APTA)

coordinated human-service transportation system - Transit systems that are coordinating some aspect of transportation, such as the sharing of vehicles, ridesharing irregularly on routes, etc. (NCDOT)

core - The area within 1/4-mile radius of a rail transit station, representing about a five-minute (or less) walk to the station.

corridor - A broad geographical band that follows a general directional flow connecting major sources of trips that may contain a number of streets, highways and transit route alignments. (APTA) A long passageway connecting two or more points that may include rail transit lines or a major highway thoroughfare.

criteria pollutants - EPA has identified and set standards for six pollutants in order to protect human health and welfare, as mandated by the 1970 amendments to the Clean Air Act. The six pollutants are: ozone, carbon monoxide, total suspended particulates, sulfur dioxide, lead and nitrogen oxide. The term "criteria pollutants" is derived from the requirements that EPA must describe the characteristics and potential health and welfare effects of the pollutants. The standards are based on these criteria. (NCDOT)

crosstown - Non-radial bus or rail service that does not enter the central business district. (APTA)

CTAA - Community Transportation Association of America

CTC - Community Transportation Conference

CTIP - Community Transportation Improvement Plan

CTP - Community Transportation Program

CTR - Commuter trip reduction

CTSP - Community Transportation Services Plan

CUTA - Canadian Urban Transit Association

cutaway van - A standard van that has undergone some structural changes, usually made to increase its size and particularly its height. The seating capacity of a cutaway van is approximately nine to 18 passengers. (FTA) Cutaway vans also may be referred to as "modified vans."

CY - Calendar year

D

daily vehicle travel - The amount of vehicle travel (in thousands) accumulated over a 24-hour day, midnight to midnight, traversed along a public road by motorized vehicles, excluding construction equipment and farm tractors. Vehicle travel not occurring on public roads, such as that occurring on private land roads (in parking lots, shopping centers, etc.) must also be excluded. (FHWA)

DAR - (or D-A-R) Dial-a-ride. See "demand responsive."

DBE - Disadvantaged business enterprise

deadheading - Operating without passengers.

deadhead - Miles and hours that a vehicle travels when out of revenue service. This includes leaving and returning to the garage, changing routes, etc., and times when there is no reasonable expectation of carrying revenue passengers. However, it does not include charter service, school bus service, operator training, maintenance training, etc. For non-scheduled, non-fixed-route service (demand-responsive), deadhead mileage also includes the travel between the dispatching point and passenger pick-up or drop-off. (FTA)

dedicated funds - Any funds raised specifically for transit purposes and which are dedicated at their source (e.g., sales taxes and property taxes), rather than through an allocation from the pool of general funds. (FTA) Dedicated funds cannot be diverted for other uses.

dedicated NGV - (or dedicated natural gas vehicle) Vehicle which operates using only natural gas.

demand-responsive - **1.** Non-fixed-route service utilizing vans or buses with passengers boarding and alighting at pre-arranged times at any location within the system's service area. Also called "dial-a-ride." (APTA) **2.** Passenger cars, vans or motor buses operating in response to calls from passengers or their agents to the transit operator, who then dispatches a vehicle to pick up the passengers and transport them to their destinations. A demand-response operation is characterized by the following: firstly, the vehicles do not operate over a fixed route or on a fixed schedule except, perhaps, on a temporary basis to satisfy a specific need; and secondly, the vehicle typically may be dispatched to pick up several passengers at different pick-up points before taking them to their respective destinations and may even be interrupted en route to these destinations to pick up other passengers. (FTA) **3.** Personal transit service operated on roadways to provide service on demand. Vehicles normally are dispatched and used exclusively for this service. (FTA)

demand-responsive system - Any system of transporting individuals, including the provision of designated public transportation service by public entities and the provision of transportation service by private entities, including, but not limited to, specific public transportation service which is not a fixed-route system. (FTA)

DENR - N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

density - The intensity of land development in terms of floor area, units per acre or population.

Department of Transportation (U.S.) - The Cabinet-level department of the federal government that is responsible for administration of federal transportation programs including public transportation, highways, railroads, air transportation and shipping. (APTA)

deviated fixed-route service - Any system of transporting individuals, including the provision of designated public transportation service by public entities and the provision of transportation service by private entities, including, but not limited to, specific public transportation service which is not a fixed-route system. (FTA)

DHHS - Department of Health and Human Services

dial-a-ride - Another name for "demand responsive." (APTA)

diesel fuel - A fuel composed of distillates obtained in petroleum refining operation or blends of such distillates with residual oil used in motor vehicles. The boiling point and specific gravity are higher for diesel fuels than for gasoline. (DOE)

diesel multiple unit (DMU) - A bidirectional, diesel-fueled, articulated rail vehicle designed to operate on standard U.S. rail lines.

disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) - A business owned and operated by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. Socially and economically disadvantaged individuals include African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Pacific Americans or Asian Indian Americans and any other minorities or individuals found to be disadvantaged by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) under Section 8 (a) of the Small Business Act. (APTA)

discretionary funds - A ration of appropriated dollars between Section 5307 or Section 5311 funds to Section 5309 (discretionary) funds. (NCDOT)

discretionary spending - A federal budgetary terms that refers to any funds whose distribution is not automatic. Discretionary spending encompasses programs controlled by annual appropriations bills and is subject to the constraints imposed by the discretionary spending limits set in the balanced budget law. (APTA)

DMU - Diesel multiple unit

DOE - U.S. Department of Energy

DOT - Department of Transportation

double-deck bus - 1. A bus with two separate passenger compartments, one above the other. (APTA) **2.** High-capacity bus having two levels of seating, one over the other, connected by one or more stairways. Total bus height usually is 13 feet to 14.5 feet, and typical passenger seating capacity ranges from 40 to 80 people. (FTA)

downtime - The amount of time a vehicle or equipment is out of service for repair. (GSA)

downtown people mover - (or DPM) A type of automated guideway transit vehicle operating on a loop or shuttle route within the central business district of a city. (APTA)

DPM - Downtown people mover

dwelt time - The scheduled time a vehicle or train is allowed to discharge and take on passengers at a stop, including opening and closing doors. (APTA)

E

EA (environmental assessment) - A document that examines the environmental impacts of a project to a lesser extent than an EIS.

EAC (early action compact) - Allows areas to defer the impacts of air-quality determinations by agreeing to start reducing air pollution earlier than otherwise required.

earmark - A federal budgetary term that refers to the specific designation by Congress that part of a more general lump-sum appropriation be used for a particular project; the earmark can be designated as a minimum and/or maximum dollar amount. (APTA)

E&H (elderly and handicapped) - See "elderly" and "people with disabilities."

E&D (elderly and disabled) - See "elderly" and "people with disabilities."

EDTAP (Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program) - State-funded program that provides operating funds for additional trips for elderly citizens and people with disabilities. No local match funds are requested. (NCDOT)

EEO - Equal Employment Opportunity

EEOC - Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

EIS (environmental impact statement) - Technical review of a project's impacts on the environment, required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

elderly - According to the Older Americans Act, people 60 years of age or older. (NCDOT)

elevated railway - Heavy rail commuter service that travels on tracks which are elevated or bridged through an urban area.

environmental impact statement - A comprehensive study of likely environmental impacts resulting from major federally assisted projects; statements are required by the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. (APTA)

EPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPACT - Energy Policy Act of 1992

equity in federal transit funding - A ratio of appropriated dollars between Sections 9 and 18 (formula funds) to Section 3 (discretionary funds). (APTA)

equivalent gallons - Amount of natural gas that contains the same amount of energy as one gallon of gasoline or diesel fuel.

ethanol - Otherwise known as ethyl alcohol, alcohol or grain spirit. A clear, colorless, flammable oxygenated hydrocarbon. In transportation, ethanol is used as a vehicle fuel by itself (E100), blended with gasoline (E85) or as a gasoline octane enhancer and oxygenate (10 percent concentration). (DOE)

EV - Electric vehicle

exclusive right-of-way - 1. A highway or other facility that only can be used by buses or other transit vehicles. (APTA) **2.** Roadways or other right-of-way reserved at all times for transit use and/or other high-occupancy vehicles. The restriction must be enforced sufficiently so that 95 percent of the vehicles using the right-of-way are authorized to use it. (FTA)

express bus - Bus operating part of the route without stops or with a limited number of stops. (APTA)

express bus service - Bus service that operates directly between an origin and a destination with few or no stops along the route.

F

fare - The required payment for a ride on a public transportation vehicle. It must be paid by an acceptable means, for example, using cash, token, ticket, transfer, farecard, voucher, pass or user's fee. (TRB)

fare collecting - Another name for ticketing.

fare elasticity - The extent to which ridership responds to fare increases or decreases. (APTA)

fare evasion - Unlawful use of transit facilities by riding without paying the applicable fare. (FTA)

fare-recovery ratio - (or "farebox recovery ratio") Measure of the proportion of operating expenses covered by passenger fares; found by dividing farebox revenue by total operating expenses for each mode and/or systemwide. (APTA)

farebox revenue - Money, including fares and transfer, zone and park and ride receipts, paid by transit passengers; also known as "passenger revenue." (APTA)

farebox revenue per passenger - A financial performance indicator that is influenced by number of riders, fare structure, rider profile and transfer rate. For example, a low regular fare and a large number of riders eligible for discounted fares, coupled with a high transfer rate, would result in a low farebox revenue per passenger. (NCDOT)

farebox revenue per total expenses - A financial performance indicator of the users' share of the total cost of service. A higher number is more favorable. Factors that affect this indicator are the amount of the base fare, number of riders, number of passengers eligible for a discounted fare and ability to sell advertising. (NCDOT)

fare structure - The system set up to determine how much is to be paid by various passengers using a transit vehicle at any given time. (APTA)

fast-fill - Refers to how quickly a vehicle can be refueled, generally three to four minutes for a car, seven to 10 minutes for a bus. A fast fill typically is metered for fuel resale or fleet accounting and requires adequate fuel storage volumes.

Federal Register - Daily publication that provides a uniform system for making regulations and legal notices issued by the Executive branch and various departments of the federal government available to the public. (USCG)

Federal Transit Administration - (or FTA) One of 10 modal administrations within the U.S. Department of Transportation. Headed by an administrator who is appointed by the president of the United States, FTA functions through a Washington, D.C., headquarters office and 10 regional offices. The Federal Transit Administration administers federal funding to support a variety of locally planned, constructed and operated public transportation systems throughout the U.S., including buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, streetcars, monorail, passenger ferry boats, inclined railways and people movers. (DOT)

feeder bus - A bus service that picks up and delivers passengers to a rail rapid transit station or express-bus stop or terminal. (APTA)

feeder service - Bus service providing primary connections with other bus or rail transit services.

ferryboat - A boat providing fixed-route service across a body of water. (APTA)

FFV - Flexible fuel vehicle

FHWA - Federal Highway Administration (U.S. Department of Transportation)

fiscal year - 1. For the FEDERAL government, denotes the yearly federal accounting period beginning October 1 and ending September 30 of the subsequent calendar year. However, prior to FY 77, the federal fiscal year started on July 1 and ended the following June 30.) **2.** For the STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA government, denotes the state accounting period beginning July 1 and ending June 30. NOTE: Fiscal years are denoted by the calendar year in which they end: e.g., federal Fiscal Year 2006 began October 1, 2005, and ended September 30, 2006; state of North Carolina Fiscal Year 2006 began July 1, 2005 and ended June 30, 2006.

fixed cost - An indirect cost that remains relatively constant, irrespective of the level of operational activity. (APTA)

fixed operating cost - Expenditures that are independent of the amount of vehicle or equipment usage, such as insurance costs, licensing and registration fees, depreciation and finance charges. (DOE)

fixed guideway - An exclusive travelway used by a particular mode of public transportation.

fixed-guideway system - A system of vehicles that can operate only on its own guideway constructed for that purpose (e.g., rapid rail, light rail). Federal usage in funding legislation also includes exclusive right-of-way bus operations, trolley coaches and ferryboats as "fixed guideway" transit. (APTA)

fixed route - Service provided on a repetitive, fixed-schedule basis along a specific route with vehicles stopping to pick up and deliver passengers to specific locations; each fixed-route trip serves the same origins and destinations, unlike demand-response and taxicab services. (APTA)

fixed-route system - A system of designated public transportation services for which a vehicle is operated along a prescribed route according to a fixed schedule. (49CFR37)

flag stop - Intercity or commuter rail transportation stops that are not stations with regularly scheduled stops but at which trains will stop to board or detrain passengers only by advanced signal or notice. (49CFR37)

fleet - The vehicles in a transit system. Usually "fleet" refers to highway vehicles and "rolling stock" refers to rail vehicles. (TRB)

flexible funds - Federal funds which can be used for highway, transit or other transportation projects, as decided by regional metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and state governments. Examples of flexible funds include the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) fund. (NCDOT)

FMS - Fleet management system

for-hire - Refers to a vehicle operated on behalf of or by a company that provides transportation services to its customer(s). (BOC)

formula funds - Funds distributed or apportioned to qualifying recipients on the basis of formulas described in law; e.g., funds in the Section 18 program for Small Urban and Rural Transit Assistance, which are distributed to each state based on the state's percentage of national rural population. (APTA)

fossil fuel - Any naturally occurring organic fuel, such as petroleum, coal and natural gas. (DOE)

fringe parking - An area for parking usually located outside the central business district and most often used by suburban residents who work or shop downtown. (APTA)

FTA (Federal Transit Administration) - One of 10 modal administrations within the U.S. Department of Transportation. Headed by an administrator who is appointed by the president of the United States, FTA functions through a Washington, D.C., headquarters office and 10 regional offices. The Federal Transit Administration administers federal funding to support a variety of locally planned, constructed and operated public transportation systems throughout the U.S., including buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, streetcars, monorail, passenger ferry boats, inclined railways and people movers. (DOT)

fuel cell - A device that produces electrical energy directly from the controlled electromechanical oxidation of fuel. It does not contain an intermediate heat cycle, as do most other electrical generation techniques. (DOE)

FY - Fiscal year

G

gasoline - A complex mixture of relatively volatile hydrocarbons, with or without small quantities of additives suitable for use in spark-ignition engines. Motor gasoline includes both leaded and unleaded grades of finished motor gasoline, blending components and gasohol, which is motor gasoline blended with up to 10 percent ethanol or methane. (DOE)

GIS - Geographic Information System: A system of computer hardware, software and data for collecting, storing, analyzing and disseminating information about areas of the earth. For land transportation purposes, GIS is defined as a highway network (spatial data which graphically represents the geometry of the highways, i.e., an electronic map) and its geographically referenced component attributes (road and bridge data, socioeconomic data, etc.) that are integrated through GIS technology to perform analyses. From this, GIS can display attributes and analyze results electronically in a map form. (FHWA)

GNSS - Global Navigation Satellite System. See "GPS."

GPS - (or Global Positioning System) A global navigation satellite system. Utilizing a constellation of least 24 Earth-orbit satellites that transmit precise microwave signals, the system enables a GPS receiver to determine its location, speed and direction. Developed by the U.S. Department of Defense, GPS has become a widely used aid to navigation worldwide, and a useful tool for map-making, land survey, commerce, and scientific uses.

grant - The award of government funds to an entity. Typically, federal funds are awarded either as "formula" or "block" grants, for which a pre-determined legislative process establishes the level of funding available to the entity; or as "discretionary" grants, for which the funding agency is free to determine how much, if any, funding the entity will receive. (NCDOT)

GRT - Group rapid transit

GTS - Ground transportation services

H

headway - The time interval between transit revenue vehicles passing a specific location. (APTA) Frequency of transit service or the amount of time between transit vehicles operating on the same route.

heavy rail - **1.** An electric railway with the capacity for a "heavy" volume of traffic and characterized by exclusive rights-of-way, multi-car trains, high speed and rapid acceleration, sophisticated signaling and high-platform loading. (APTA) **2.** High-speed, passenger rail cars operating singly or in trains of two or more cars on fixed rails in separate rights-of-way from which all other vehicular and pedestrian traffic is excluded. (FTA) **3.** "Rapid rail" transit service using rail cars powered by electricity that is drawn from a third rail and usually operated on exclusive rights-of-way. It generally uses longer trains and has longer spacing between stations than light rail. (FTA)

HHS - Health and Human Services (Department of)

high-occupancy toll - (or HOT) Toll or increased toll charge imposed upon vehicles which have less than the specified number of required passengers for a particular road or highway. (NCDOT)

high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) - Vehicles that can carry two or more persons. Examples include buses, vans and carpools. (APTA)

high-occupancy vehicle lane (HOV lane) - Exclusive road or travel lane limited to buses, vanpools and carpools on freeways, highways and city arterial streets. (APTA)

high-speed rail - Rail transportation system with exclusive rights-of-way which serves densely traveled corridors at speeds of 124 miles per hour and greater. (APTA)

Highway Trust Fund (U.S.) - The federal trust fund established by the Highway Revenue Act of 1956; this fund has two accounts -- the Highway Account and the Mass Transit Account. Trust fund revenues are derived from federal highway- user taxes and fees such as motor fuel taxes; trust fund uses and expenditures are determined by law. (APTA)

HOT - High-occupancy toll

HOV - High-occupancy vehicle

HOV lane - High-occupancy vehicle lane

HSGT - High-speed ground transportation

HSTC – Human Service Transportation Council

HTF – North Carolina State Highway Trust Fund

human-service transportation system - Transportation systems which provide service exclusively to clients of human-service agencies. In North Carolina, there are three types of human-service transit systems: 1) those that are consolidated and provide their own services; 2) those that are consolidated and contract for transportation services; and 3) those that are coordinated. (NCDOT)

I

IAR – Improvement Action Report

inclined plane vehicle - Special type of passenger vehicle operating up and down slopes on rails via a cable mechanism. (FTA) Also, A railway operating over exclusive right-of-way on steep grades with unpowered vehicles propelled by moving cables attached to the vehicles and powered by engines or motors at a central location not on board the vehicle. (APTA)

infill area - In land-use and transit planning, an area containing one or more vacant parcels of land surrounded by urban or suburban development.

infill development - In land-use and transit planning, development of vacant parcels in urbanized or suburbanized areas. Development of this type typically brings the density of the area closer to that allowed by the existing zoning regulations.

Intelligent Vehicle Highway Systems - (or IVHS) Automated systems of highway transportation designed to improve traffic monitoring and management. IVHS include Advanced Public Transportation Systems (APTS), Automatic Vehicle Location System (AVLS) and "smart vehicles" which assist drivers with planning, perception, analysis and decision-making. (APTA)

intercity bus - A bus with front doors only, high-backed seats, separate luggage compartments and usually with toilet facilities for use in high-speed, long-distance service. (APTA)

intercity bus transportation - Establishments primarily engaged in furnishing bus transportation, over regular routes and on regular schedules, the operations of which are principally outside a single municipality and its suburban areas. (BOC)

intercity rail - Passenger train service provided by Amtrak. (49CFR37)

intermodalism - Use of more than one type of transportation. Typically used in three contexts: 1) most specifically, it refers to technologies that provide the seamless movement of goods and/or people by more than one mode of transportation. 2) more broadly, intermodalism refers to the provision of connections between different modes, such as adequate connections between transit and highways, waterways railroads and airports. 3) In its broadest interpretation, intermodalism refers to a holistic view of transportation in which individual modes work together or within their own niches to provide users with the best choices of service, and in which the consequences on all modes are considered in the of policies for each individual mode. This view also has been called balanced, integrated or comprehensive transportation in the past. (BTS)

intermodal passenger terminal - An existing railroad passenger terminal which has been or may be modified as necessary to accommodate several modes of transportation, including intercity rail service and some or all of the following: intercity bus, commuter rail, intra-city rail transit and bus transportation, airport limousine service, airline ticket offices, rent-a-car facilities, taxicabs, private parking and other transportation services. (49CFR256)

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 - (or ISTEA) Legislation which amended and extended former legislation authorizing approximately \$155 billion for highways, highway safety and mass transportation for the five-year period from 1992 to 1997. (NCDOT) Also: The 1991 law that reauthorized the federal surface transportation program for six years. ISTEA heralded a new era in surface transportation because of the emphasis on "intermodalism," the unprecedented increases in authorized spending for transit, the ability to use some highway funds for transit (and vice versa) and the increased reliance on regional planning agencies to weigh transportation options and make decisions utilizing public participation. (APTA)

ISTEA - Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

ITRE - Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C.

ITS - Intelligent transportation system

J

jitney - **1.** Privately owned, small or medium-sized vehicle usually operated on a fixed route but not on a fixed schedule. (APTA) **2.** Passenger car or van operating on a fixed route (sometimes with minor deviations) as demand warrants without fixed schedules or fixed stops. (FTA)

joint development - Ventures undertaken by the public and private sectors for development of land around transit stations or stops. Also: A shared effort by two or more parties to develop a parcel of land. In terms of transit, this quite often involves a private developer and a transit agency. The development may include parking, commercial uses, retail and/or residential uses. In return for provision of the property, the transit agency may receive a new or improved station facility, additional joint-use parking, increased ridership generated by the development, infrastructure improvements and/or income.

K

kiss-and-ride - A place where commuters who are driven to the transit stop are dropped off to board a public transit vehicle. (APTA)

L

layover time - Time built into a schedule between arrival at the end of a route and the departure for the return trip, used for the recovery of delays and preparation for the return trip. (APTA)

LEV - Low-emissions vehicle

level of service - A set of characteristics that indicate the quality and quantity of transportation service provided, including characteristics that are quantifiable and those that are difficult to quantify. For paratransit services, level of service represents a variety of measures meant to denote the quality of service provided, generally in terms of total travel time or specific component of travel time. (TRB)

light rail transit (LRT) - **1.** An electric railway with a "light volume" traffic capacity compared to heavy rail. Light rail may use shared or exclusive rights-of-way, high or low platform loading and multi-car trains or single cars. Also known as "streetcar," "trolley" and "tramway." (APTA) **2.** Lightweight passenger rail cars operating singly (or in short, usually two-car trains) on fixed rails in right-of-way that is not separated from other traffic for much of the way. Light rail vehicles are driven electrically with power being drawn from an overhead electric line via a trolley or pantograph (FTA) **3.** Streetcar: urban transit that uses predominantly reserved but not always grade-separated rights-of-way with electrically powered rail vehicles that operate alone or in trains. (FTA) **4.** A rail transit system that can operate on a variety of rights-of-way, from on-street to grade-separated. It typically uses articulated vehicles powered by an overhead electric catenary and connects activity centers within an urbanized area.

linked trip - A trip from origin to destination on the transit system. Even if a passenger must make several transfers during a journey, the trip is counted as one linked trip on the system. (FTA)

liquefied natural gas (LNG) - Natural or synthetic gas having methane as its major constituent, which has been changed to a liquid or semisolid, normally by reducing its temperature to minus 260 degrees at atmospheric pressure. (DOE) Also: An alternative fuel; a natural gas cooled to below its boiling point of minus 260 degrees Fahrenheit so that it becomes a liquid; stored in a vacuum bottle-type container at very low temperatures and under moderate pressure. LNG vapor is lighter than air. (APTA)

Liquefied petroleum gases (LPG) - Ethane, ethylene, propane, propylene, normal butane and isooctane produced at refineries or processing plants that fractionate new natural gas plant liquids. Normally consists of propane and butane that are derived from natural gas. (DOE)

Livable communities - Communities representing a holistic approach to how cities are planned, designed and built, by giving proper attention to the involvement of people in the planning of neighborhoods; adopting appropriate planning principles; and designing buildings, streets and other transportation facilities to meet the needs of the people. (NCDOT)

LNG - Liquefied natural gas.

load factor - The ratio of passengers actually carried versus the total passenger capacity of a vehicle. (APTA)

local bus service - Community-based transit bus service provided for residents of a specific localized area.

local street - Roadways that provide direct access to the adjacent land. The roadway typically accommodates a low volume of traffic.

LPG - Liquefied petroleum gases.

LRRT - Light rapid rail transit. See "light rail."

LRT - Light rail transit

LRTP (long range transportation plan) - A federally required, fiscally constrained, multimodal transportation plan for at 20 years into the future.

LRV - Light rail vehicle

M

MAB (metropolitan area boundary) - The boundary of the area within the transportation planning jurisdiction of an MPO.

mag-lev (maglev or magnetic levitation) - A rail transportation system with exclusive right-of-way which is propelled along a fixed guideway system by the attraction or repulsion of magnets on the rails and under the rail cars. (APTA)

maintenance - Inspection, overhaul, repair, preservation and the replacement of parts, but excluding preventive maintenance. (14CFR1)

managers of mobility - See "mobility managers."

manual restraint system - Occupant restraints that require some action, usually buckling, before they are effective. Examples include shoulder belts, lap belts, infant carriers and child safety seats. (NHTSA)

mass transit (or mass transportation) – Term generally used to describe the movement of a large number of people at one time, usually by bus or train. **Also:** Another name for public transportation, particularly used from the 1950s through the 1980s.

Mass Transit Account (federal) - The federal account, established by the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, into which a designated portion of the federal Highway Trust Fund revenue from motor fuel taxes is placed. This account is used for federal public transportation assistance. (APTA)

match - State or local funds required by the federal government to complement federal funds for a project. A match also may be required by states in funding projects that are joint state/local efforts. (NCDOT)

mean distance between failures - The average distance in miles that a transit vehicle travels before failure of a vital component forces removal of the vehicle from service. (APTA)

Medicaid Transportation Assistance Program (MTAP) - A state-funded program that provides operating funds for the transportation of Medicaid-eligible children and Medicaid-eligible pregnant women. No local matching funds are requested.

medium-sized bus - A bus that is 29 feet to 34 feet in length. (APTA)

methanol - A colorless, nearly odorless, volatile alcohol used in transportation as a vehicle fuel by itself or blended with gasoline. (DOE) Also: An alternative fuel; a liquid alcohol fuel with vapor heavier than air; primarily produced from natural gas. (APTA)

metropolitan planning area (MPA) - The geographic area in which the metropolitan transportation planning process required by 23 U.S. Code 134 and Section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S. Code app. 1607) must be carried out. (23CFR420)

metropolitan planning organization (MPO) - **1.** The forum for cooperative transportation decision-making for a metropolitan area. (23CFR420) Formed in cooperation with the state, develops transportation plans and programs for the metropolitan area. For each urbanized area, the MPO must be designated by agreement between the Governor and local units of government, representing 75 percent of the affected population (in the metropolitan area), including the central city or cities defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, or in accordance with procedures established by applicable state or local law (23 U.S. Code 134(b)(1)/Federal Transit Act of 1991 Sec. 8 (b)(1)). (FHWA) Also: The organization designated by local elected officials as being responsible for carrying out the urban transportation and other planning processes for an area. (APTA) **2.** A local agency responsible for developing a long-range transportation plan and a short-range transportation improvement program, including funding sources, for the urbanized area as well as adjacent areas that will become urbanized.

metropolitan rail - ("metro") - Another name for "heavy rail."

metropolitan statistical area (MSA) - Area defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. An MSA is: 1) a county or group of contiguous counties that contains at least one city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, or 2) an urbanized area of at least 50,000 inhabitants and a total MSA population of at least 100,000 inhabitants (75,000 in New England). The contiguous counties are included in an MSA if, according to certain criteria, they are essentially metropolitan in character and are socially and economically integrated with the central city or cities. In New England, MSAs consist of towns and cities rather than counties. (FHWA)

midday period - The period of time between the end of the a.m. peak and the beginning of the p.m. peak. (FTA)

minivan - Type of small van that first appeared with the designation in 1984. Any of the smaller vans built on an automobile-type frame. (DOE)

minority business enterprise - A business owned and operated by one or more individuals who are defined as minorities under U.S. Department of Transportation regulations. See also "disadvantaged business enterprise." (APTA)

mixed-use - In land-use and transit planning, generally refers to different compatible land uses located within a single structure or in close proximity to each other.

mobile office - A type of telecommute in which workers are equipped with the tools, technology and skills to perform their jobs from anywhere the person has to be -- home, office or customer's location. Also known as a "virtual office."

mobility managers - Transit systems which expand their role to include services and approaches beyond traditional public transportation to include ridesharing, high occupancy vehicle programs, public education on transit's benefits and integration of land use, air quality and transportation decisions; the phrase was developed as part of the industry's "Transit 2000" policy effort undertaken in the late 1980s and early 1990s. (APTA)

modal split - **1.** The proportion of total person trips that uses each of the various specified modes of transportation. (TRB) **2.** The process of separating total person trips into the modes of travel used. (TRB) **3.** A term that describes how many people use alternative forms of transportation. It is used frequently to describe the percentage of people who use private automobiles in comparison to the percentage who use public transportation. (TRB) Also: A term that describes how many people use alternative forms of transportation. Frequently used to describe the percentage of people using private automobiles as opposed to the percentage using public transportation. (APTA)

mode - **1.** Formally refers to any of the following transportation methods: rail, highway, air or water. (49CFR171) **2.** Transit service operated in a particular format. There are two types: fixed-route and non-fixed-route. (APTA) **3.** Transportation planners, decision-makers and analysts refer to the means of transportation as the "mode." (BTS) **4.** The types of transportation available for use, such as rail, bus, vanpool, personal vehicle or bicycle.

model - An analytical tool (often mathematical) used by transportation planners to assist in making forecasts of land use, economic activity, travel activity and their effects on the quality of resources such as land, air and water. (APTA)

modified van - A standard van that has undergone some structural changes, usually made to increase its size and particularly its height. The seating capacity of modified vans is approximately nine to 18 passengers. (FTA) Certain modified vans also may be referred to as "cutaway vans."

monorail - An electrical railway in which a car or train of cars is suspended from or straddles a fixed guideway formed by a single beam or rail (or tube). Most monorails are either heavy rail systems or automated guideway systems. (APTA)

motor bus - **1.** A rubber-tired, self-propelled, manually steered vehicle with fuel supply carried on board the vehicle. (APTA) **2.** Rubber-tired passenger vehicle powered by diesel, gasoline or alternative fuel engines contained within the vehicle. Class A motor buses are equipped with more than 35 seats. Class B motor buses are equipped with 25 to 35 seats. Class C motor buses are equipped with less than 25 seats. "Motor bus service" implies fixed routes and schedules. (FTA) Also see "Bus."

MPA - Metropolitan planning area

MPO - Metropolitan planning organization

MSA - Metropolitan statistical area (as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau)

MTAP - Medicaid Transportation Assistance Program

MTIP (Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program) - The official, fiscally constrained funding schedule for transportation projects in the metropolitan area.

multimodal - Accommodating various modes of surface transportation including bicycles, pedestrians, transit vehicles, ferries, trains and personal vehicles. Also see "intermodal."

multiple land use - In land-use and transit planning, generally refers to different compatible land uses located within a defined area.

N

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) - Nationwide air quality standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that apply to air outside buildings. Also see related "criteria pollutants."

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 - A comprehensive federal law requiring analysis of the environmental impacts of federal actions such as the approval of grants; also requiring preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for every major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. (APTA)

National Highway System - A proposed transportation system consisting of approximately 155,000 miles of highway in order to provide an interconnected system of principal arterial routes serving major population centers, major transportation facilities, major travel destinations, interstate and interregional travel and meeting national defense requirements. The NHS, defined in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), is one component of the National Transportation System (NTS). (APTA)

National Transit Database (NTD, formerly Section 15) - A reporting system, by uniform categories, to accumulate mass transportation financial and operating information and a uniform system of accounts and records. The reporting and uniform systems contain appropriate information to help any level of government make a public-sector investment decision. The U.S. Secretary of Transportation may request and receive appropriate information from any source. (FTA)

National Transportation System (NTS) - An intermodal system consisting of all forms of transportation in a unified, interconnected manner to reduce energy consumption and air pollution while promoting economic development and supporting the nation's preeminent position in international commerce. The NTS includes the National Highway System or NHS, public transportation, and access to ports and airports. (APTA)

natural gas - A mixture of hydrocarbon compounds and small quantities of various nonhydrocarbons existing in the gaseous phase or in solution with crude oil in natural underground reservoirs. (DOE)

NCBOT - North Carolina Board of Transportation

NCDOT - North Carolina Department of Transportation

NCPTA - North Carolina Public Transportation Association

NCTRP (National Cooperative Transit Research and Development Program) - A program established under Section 6(a) of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, to provide a mechanism by which the principal client groups of the Urban Mass Transportation Association can join cooperatively in an attempt to resolve near-term public transportation problems through applied research, development, testing and evaluation. The national Transportation Research Board administers NCTRP. (TRB)

neckdown - In land-use and transit planning, the narrowing of a street at an intersection to reduce the width of the roadway. This slows traffic and shortens the distance pedestrians must travel to cross the street.

neighborhood - In land-use and transit planning, the approximate area between 1/4-mile radius (the core) and 1/2-mile radius from a rail transit station, representing about a 10 to 15-minute walk to the station. Also referred to as the "ring."

NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) - Federal law that requires consideration of environmental impacts for all major expenditures of federal funds

net operating deficit - Total expenses minus total revenue. (NCDOT)

net operating deficit per passenger - An efficiency indicator that denotes the net operating cost per unit (passenger trip), or the subsidy per passenger. Ridership and system operating costs have an impact. For example, systems with high ridership and low operating costs will achieve lower net costs per passenger. (NCDOT)

"new start" - Federal funding granted under Section 3(i) of the Federal Transit Act (formerly known as the Urban Mass Transportation Act). These discretionary funds are made available for construction of a new fixed guideway system or extension of any existing fixed guideway system, based on cost-effectiveness, alternative analysis results and the degree of local financial commitment. (APTA)

NGV - Natural-gas vehicle

NHI - National Highway Institute

nitrogen oxides - A product of the combustion of fossil fuels for which production increases with the temperature of the combustion process. Nitrogen oxides can become an air pollutant if concentrations are excessive. (DOE)

nonattainment area - Geographic area which does not meet one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the criteria pollutants designated by the Clean Air Act. (NCDOT) Also: Any geographic region of the United States that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated as not attaining the federal air quality standards for one or more air pollutants, such as ozone and carbon monoxide. (APTA)

nonfixed route - Service not provided on a repetitive, fixed-schedule basis along a specific route to specific locations. Demand-responsive service is the only non-fixed transit route mode. (APTA)

non-revenue service - Vehicle services for which passengers are not charged directly for transportation, either on a per-passenger or per-vehicle basis (such as on a school bus, for example). (DOE)

non-vehicle maintenance - All activities associated with facility maintenance, including: administration; repair of buildings, grounds and equipment as a result of accidents or vandalism; operation of electric power facilities; and maintenance of vehicle movement control systems; fare collection and counting equipment; structures, tunnels and subways; roadway and track; passenger stations, operating station buildings, grounds and equipment; communication systems; general administration buildings, grounds and equipment; and electric power facilities. (FTA)

North Carolina Board of Transportation - (or NCBOT, BOT) A state board made up of 24 people, 22 of whom are appointed by the Governor. The Board of Transportation was created by N.C. General Statute 143B-350 to formulate policies for all modes of transportation under the state Department of Transportation. (NCDOT)

North Carolina Public Transportation Association (NCPTA) - A private, non-profit organization of transportation professionals whose collective purpose is to promote public transportation in North Carolina. (NCDOT)

NO_x - Oxides of nitrogen produced during the combustion process.

NSC - National Safety Council

NTD - National Transit Database

NTGIS - National Transit Geographic Information System

NTI - National Transportation Institute

NTS - National Transportation Statistics (Report)

O

obligation limitation - A monetary amount specified in an appropriations act that limits the amount of federal assistance that may be obligated during a specified time period, usually one fiscal year. An obligation limitation is used to reduce the amount of contract authority available for obligation in the federal Discretionary Grants (trust fund) program. Also: A federal budgetary term that refers to a limit placed in appropriations bills on the amount of federal assistance that may be obligated during a specified time period. It does not affect the scheduled apportionment or allocation of funds; it just controls the rate at which these funds may be used. (APTA)

obligations - Commitments made by federal agencies to pay out money, as distinct from the actual payments, which are "outlays." Generally, obligations are incurred after the enactment of budget authority. The obligations are for the federal share of the estimated full cost of each project at the time it is approved, regardless of when the actual payments are made or the expected time of project completion. Also: A federal budgetary term that refers to a binding agreement that will result in an outlay; an agreement by the federal government to pay for goods or services immediately or at some future time when the goods or services are delivered. Also known as a "commitment." (APTA)

occupancy - The number of persons, including the driver and passenger(s), in a vehicle. Occupancy rates may be calculated as "person miles" divided by "vehicle miles." (FHWA)

occupant - Any person who is in or upon a motor vehicle in transport. Includes the driver, passengers and persons riding on the exterior of a motor vehicle. (For example, an in-line skater who is set in motion by holding onto the rear of a bus is an occupant of the bus.) (NHTSA)

off-peak period - Non-rush periods of the day when travel activity is generally lower and less transit service is scheduled. Also called "base period." (APTA)

OIP - Operations Improvement Plan

on-time performance - The proportion of the time that a transit system adheres to its published schedule times within state tolerances. (TRB)

O&M - Operations and maintenance

OMB - Office of Management and Budget

operating assistance - Financial assistance for transit operations (not capital expenditures). Funds may originate from federal, state or local governments. (APTA)

operating deficit - The sum of all operating expenses minus operating revenues. (APTA)

operating expenses - Expenses of furnishing transportation services (does not include capital expenses).

operating revenue - Receipts derived from or for the operation of transit service, including farebox revenue, revenue from advertising, interest and charter bus service and operating assistance from governments. (APTA)

OPSTATS – Operating Statistics

outlay - A federal budgetary term that refers to a payment made to meet an obligation; the point at which an actual payment of money is made. (APTA)

oxygenate - A substance which, when added to gasoline, increases the amount of oxygen in the gasoline blend. Oxygenates include fuel ethanol, methanol and methyl tertiary butyl ether. Oxygenated gasoline formulated for use in most vehicles has an oxygen content of 1.8 percent or higher by weight. (DOE) Note: Oxygenated fuels sometimes are mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for sale and use in areas which exceed certain air quality standards, including certain metropolitan areas in North Carolina, especially during winter months.

ozone - A form of oxygen found in two layers of earth's atmosphere, in the stratosphere (beginning seven to ten miles above earth's surface) and the troposphere (beginning at earth's surface and extending up to the stratosphere). In the stratosphere, ozone occurs naturally and provides a protective layer shielding earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. In the troposphere however, ozone is a chemical oxidant and a major component of photochemical smog. It can harm the respiratory systems of humans and other animals, and it is one of the most prevalent and widespread of the criteria pollutants for which the Clean Air Act required the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set standards. Ozone in the troposphere is produced by complex chemical reactions involving nitrogen oxides, which are among the primary pollutants emitted by combustion sources; hydrocarbons, released into the air through the combustion, handling and processing of petroleum products; and sunlight.

P - Q

paratransit - Comparable transportation service required by the Americans with Disabilities Act for people with disabilities who are unable to use fixed-route transportation systems. (APTA)

park-and-ride - 1. An access mode to transit in which patrons drive private vehicles or ride bicycles to a transit station, bus or rail stop or carpool or vanpool waiting area and park their vehicles in the area provided for the purpose. They then ride the transit system or take the carpool/vanpool to their destinations. (TRB) **2.** Involves the use of a motorized personal vehicle in conjunction with transit. Park-and-ride facilities include a parking lot or portion of a lot near transit stops, allowing transit users to park their personal vehicles for a short period of time and make convenient transfers to the transit system.

particulates - Carbon particles formed by partial oxidation and reduction of hydrocarbon fuels. Also included are quantities of trace metal oxides and nitrates originating from engine wear, component degradation and inorganic fuel additives. In the transportation sector, particulates are emitted mainly from diesel engines. (DOE)

particulate trap - A filter which removes a portion of the particulates (solids, soot, etc.) from a vehicle's exhaust stream and generally includes a regenerative unit and associated control system to burn the collected solids. (APTA)

passenger - Any occupant of a motor vehicle (in or upon the vehicle) who is not the driver. (NHSTA)

passenger count - The total number of passengers over a period of time that use a particular facility. (TRB)

passenger flow - The number of passengers who pass a given location in a specified direction during a given period. (TRB)

passenger miles - The total number of miles traveled by passengers on transit vehicles; determined by multiplying the number of unlinked passenger trips by the average length of their trips. (APTA)

passenger revenue - Money, including fares and transfer, zone and park-and-ride receipts, paid by transit passengers; also known as "farebox revenue." (APTA)

passengers per bus hour - An effectiveness indicator that measures service utilization. It is affected by service hours, service design and service area characteristics. A system may carry a high number of passengers per mile but a relatively low number of passengers per bus hour if vehicles operate in congested areas and thus travel at slower speeds. (NCDOT)

passengers per bus mile - An effectiveness indicator that measures service utilization. A higher number is more favorable. Service area characteristics and service design impact this indicator. For example, a transit system serving a community with a widely dispersed population must operate circuitous routes that tend to carry fewer passengers per mile. (NCDOT)

PB - Lead

PCE - Passenger-car equivalence

peak/base ratio - The number of vehicles operated in passenger service during the peak period divided by the number operated during the base period. (APTA)

peak period - Morning and afternoon time periods when transit ridership is heaviest. (APTA)

peak-period surcharge - An extra fee required during peak periods, such as rush hours. (APTA)

pedestrian-oriented development - Development that is designed with an emphasis primarily on the street sidewalk and on pedestrian access to the site and building(s), rather than emphasizing personal-vehicle access and parking. Buildings generally are placed close to the street and the main entrance is oriented to the street's sidewalk. Typically, buildings cover a large portion of the site. Although parking areas may be provided, they are generally limited in size and are located at the side or rear of the buildings. This type of development also is characterized by the mix of uses within walking distance of one another, allowing people to move easily among many destinations.

people mover - An automated transportation system (e.g., continuous-belt system or automated guideway transit) that provides short-haul collection distribution service for passengers, usually in a major activity center. (TRB)

people with disabilities - People who, by reason of illness, injury, age congenital malfunction or other disability, are unable to use local transit facilities and services, without adequate facilities, as effectively as people who are not so affected. (NCDOT)

petroleum - A generic term applied to oil and oil products in all forms, such as crude oil, natural gas and nonhydrocarbon compounds blended into finished petroleum products. (DOE)

PM - Preventive maintenance

PM 2.5 – Particulate matter that is 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller. These fine particles are unhealthy to breathe and have been associated with premature mortality and other serious health effects.

p.m. peak period - The period in the afternoon or evening when additional services are provided to handle higher passenger volumes. The period begins when normal headways are reduced and ends when headways are returned to normal. (FTA)

propane - An alternative fuel; a liquid petroleum gas (LPG) which is stored under moderate pressure and with vapor heavier than air; produced as a by-product of natural gas and oil production. (APTA)

PTD (Public Transportation Division) - A division of the N.C. Department of Transportation.

PTMS – Public Transportation Management System

public open space - In land-use and transit planning, informal or formal outdoor areas that are intended for use by the public for passive or active recreation. These areas can vary in size and may include, but are not limited to include, these elements: seating, landscaping, playground equipment, sports fields and water features. Community parks, urban parks and urban plazas are three types of public open space that may be located in, around or near rail transit stations.

public transit - 1. (or public transportation) Passenger transportation services, local, metropolitan or regional in scope, that are available to any person who pays a prescribed fare. (TRB) **2.** Transportation by bus, rail or other conveyance, either publicly or privately owned, which is provided to the public or specialty service on a regular and continuing basis. Also known as "mass transit," "mass transportation," "public transportation" and "transit." (APTA)

public transit agency - A public entity responsible for administering and managing transit activities and services. Public transit agencies can directly operate transit service or contract out for all or part of the total transit service provided. (FTA)

public transit system -An organization that provides transportation services owned, operated or subsidized by any municipality, county, regional authority, state or other governmental agency, including those operated or managed by a private management firm under contract to the government agency owner. (APTA)

publicos - Passenger vans or Class C motor buses operating with fixed routes but no fixed schedules. Publicos are a privately owned and operated mass transit service which is market-oriented and free of government assistance, but is regulated through a public service commission, state or local government. Publicos generally are operated under franchise agreements, fares are regulated by route and there are special insurance requirements. Vehicle capacity varies from eight people to 30 people or more, and the vehicles may be owned or leased by the operator. (FTA)

R

railbus - A relatively light, diesel-powered, two-axle rail vehicle with a body resembling that of a bus. (TRB)

rail modernization - Federal funding granted under Section 3(h) of the Federal Transit Act (formerly known as the Urban Mass Transportation Act). These discretionary funds are distributed by a formula and made available to transit systems for improvements to fixed guideway systems that have been in service for at least seven years. Also known as "fixed-guideway modernization." (APTA)

rapid rail - 1. Transit service using rail cars driven by electricity that usually is drawn from a third rail, is configured for passenger traffic and is operated on exclusive rights-of-way. It generally uses longer trains and has longer station spacing than light rail. (FTA) **2.** A subway-type transit vehicle railway operated on exclusive rights-of-way with high-platform stations. "Rapid rail" also may operate on elevated or at-grade level track separated from other traffic. (49CFR37)

rapid transit - Rail or motor bus transit service operating completely separate from any other modes of transportation on an exclusive right-of-way.

reconciling items - Items for which accounting practices vary for handling these expenses as a result of local ordinances and conditions. Reconciling items include depreciation and amortization, interest payments, leases and rentals. They are called reconciling items because they are needed to provide an overall total that is consistent with local published reports. (FTA)

recovery ratio - A cost-effectiveness indicator that measures the overall performance of a transit system by comparing total revenue to total operating expenses. Higher ratios are more desirable, however the difference between systems may reflect different fare policies rather than differences in operating efficiency. (NCDOT)

redevelopment - Renovation of a previously developed parcel of land or building site in order to allow a new or more-viable use or uses to replace the previous land use. These sites typically are found in urban areas that previously had experienced economic and physical deterioration, but that now are the focus of renewal efforts.

regional rail - **1.** Rail transit services that uses self-propelled, diesel-fueled rail cars (also called diesel multiple units or DMU), can operate on the same tracks as freight trains, and typically connects activity centers within a single metropolitan region. **2.** Another term for "commuter rail."

regular bus/vehicle hours - Hours of service provided in regular fixed-route revenue service only. Does not include deadhead or charter service hours. (NCDOT)

regular bus/vehicle miles - Miles driven in regular fixed-route revenue service only. Does not include deadhead or charter service hours. (NCDOT)

rehabilitation - Major renovation, rebuilding or repair of a transit vehicle for the purpose of preserving its useful service life. (NCDOT)

renewable energy - Energy obtained from sources that essentially are inexhaustible, unlike fossil fuels, for example, of which there are a finite supply. Renewable energy sources include wood, waste, photovoltaic and solar thermal energy. (DOE)

re-oriented local bus service - Existing local bus service that has been altered to serve new rail transit stations in addition to stops previously established in the service area.

rescission - A federal budgetary term that refers to the cancellation, in whole or part, of budget authority previously granted by Congress. (APTA)

revenue seat mile - The movement of one transit passenger seat the distance of one mile. The total number of revenue seat miles for a vehicle is obtained by multiplying the number of revenue seats in the vehicle by the number of miles traveled. (TRB)

revenue service - The time when a vehicle is available to the general public and there is a reasonable expectation of carrying passengers that either directly pay fares, are assisted by public policy or provide payment through some contractual arrangement. Vehicles operated in fare-free service are considered to be in revenue service. Revenue service excludes deadhead, school bus and charter services. (FTA)

revenue vehicle mile - The distance in miles that a revenue vehicle is operated while it is available for passenger service. (TRB)

revenue vehicles - The fleet and rolling stock used in providing transit service for passengers. The term "revenue vehicles" includes the body and chassis and all fixtures and appliances inside or attached to the body or chassis, except fare-collection equipment and revenue- vehicle movement control equipment. (FTA)

reverse commuting - Travel in a direction opposite the main flow of traffic during commuting times. (APTA)

revitalization area - In land-use and transit planning, an urbanized area in which the land is underutilized and/or the existing development is significantly deteriorated.

RFP – Requests for proposals

RGP - Rural general public (transit)

ridesharing - A form of public transportation, other than public transit, in which more than one person shares the use of the vehicle, such as a van or car, to make a trip. Also known as "carpooling," "buspooling" or "vanpooling." (APTA) Generally, carpooling agreements are not arranged by contract, whereas vanpool and buspool agreements are contractually binding.

ridership - **1.** The number of rides taken by people using a public transportation system during a given time period. (APTA) **2.** Refers to the number of people using a particular transit system on a regular basis.

right-of-way - A public or private area that allows for passage of people or goods, including, but not limited to, freeways, streets, bicycle paths, alleys, trails and walkways. A public right-of-way is dedicated or deeded to the public entity for use under the control of a public agency.

ring - In land-use and transit planning, the approximate area between 1/4-mile radius (the core) and 1/2-mile radius from a rail transit station, representing about a 10 to 15-minute walk to the station. Also referred to as the "neighborhood."

ROAP – Rural Operating Assistance Program

rolling stock - The equipment used in a transit system, including buses and rail cars. (APTA) Also see "fleet."

route miles - The total number of miles included in a fixed-route transit system's network. (APTA)

RPO (rural planning organization) – Partnerships among non-MPO counties, established to provide rural areas a greater voice in state transportation decisions affecting those areas

RRT - Rapid rail transit

RT - Rail transit

RTAP - Rural Transportation Assistance Program

rural - **1.** Usually refers to areas with populations less than 5,000. (DOE) **2.** Areas outside the limits of any incorporated or unincorporated city, town, village, hamlet or any other designated residential or commercial area such as a subdivision, business or shopping center or community development. (49CFR195) **3.** Includes all areas of a state that are outside the Federal Highway Administration approved and adjusted census boundaries of small urban and urbanized areas (FHWA)

rural general public transit system - Transit systems in rural areas (areas with less than 5,000 population) that provide transportation services to clients of human-service agencies and the general public. Federal Section 18 funds are used to assist in the administration and operating expenses of these systems. (NCDOT)

S

SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) - Current federal highway funding legislation. (TEA-21 and ISTEA are the acronyms for former legislation.)

sampling - A statistical technique for the collection of passenger-mile data. The sampling technique may be one of the FTA-approved procedures or an alternative methodology that meets FTA's requirements for statistical reliability (95 percent confidence and 10 percent precision). (FTA)

satellite office - A type of telecommute using office locations typically operated by and for a single employer that are away from the employer's primary work site. Satellite offices help to reduce commute times for employees and help alleviate city traffic and parking congestion problems by locating offices closer to employee's homes and communities, especially in metropolitan areas.

scheduled revenue service - The total service scheduled to be provided for picking up and discharging passengers. Scheduled revenue service is computed from internal transit agency planning documents (e.g., run paddles, trip tickets and public timetables) and includes the whole trip (e.g., deadhead, layover/recovery and actual picking up and discharging of passengers). Schedule service excludes service interruptions and special additional services. (FTA)

scheduled service - **1.** A scheduled commercial passenger vehicle trip. The scheduled trip generally is offered at pre-established times between designated locations. (FHWA) **2.** Total service scheduled, computed from schedules. Scheduled service excludes service interruptions and special additional services. (FTA)

school bus - **1.** Includes county buses, private school buses and buses chartered from private companies for the express purpose of carrying students to or from school and/or school-related activities. (FHWA) **2.** Type I and Type II school vehicles as defined by the Highway Safety Program Standard No. 17, used exclusively to transport school students, personnel and equipment. (FTA)

school bus hours - The vehicle hours of travel by a revenue vehicle while serving as a school bus. School bus hours are only the hours when the bus is primarily or solely dedicated to carrying school passengers. (FTA)

school bus service - The operation of buses exclusively to carry school passengers to and from their schools. (FTA)

"seamless" transportation network - The concept of "seamless" transportation is customer-based, referring to transportation services and facilities that allow users to move with a high degree of ease and convenience between modes and across service areas. "Seamlessness" requires transportation services and facilities to be integrated fully in three primary ways: 1) through physical interconnections between modes and services, e.g. intermodal terminals, stations and transfer centers, pedestrian access and bicycle storage; 2) through functional coordination of key operating practices, e.g. shared parking arrangements, integrated schedules, unified fare media, pricing and distribution, common service standards and performance measures, common marketing and service identity/design programs, uniform systems and protocols for communications and information sharing, unified database and analysis techniques; and 3) through common or joint administrative practices such as procurement, contracting and human resource management. (NCDOT)

seating capacity - The number of seats that are actually installed in the vehicle. (FTA)

seating position - The location of the occupants in the vehicle. More than one person can be assigned the same seating position, however this is allowed only when a person is sitting on someone's lap. (NHTSA)

Section 4(f) - Federal requirement for consideration of impacts to historic and natural areas for transportation projects.

Section 13(c) - The section of the Federal Transit Act (formerly known as the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964), as amended, related to labor protection that is designed to protect transit employees against a worsening of their position with respect to their employment as a result of grant assistance under the Act. (APTA)

Section 16 - Formerly administered federal transit grant program, replaced by Section 5310.

Section 16(b) - Formerly administered federal transit grant program, replaced by Section 5310(b).

Section 18 - Formerly administered federal transit grant program, replaced by Section 5311.

Section 104(f) PL - Funds distributed through the Federal Highway Administration for transportation planning tasks.

Section 5303 - The section of the Federal Transit Act (formerly known as the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964), as amended, that provides assistance to local governments for conducting transportation planning activities in urban areas with populations greater than 50,000. The Section 5303 program helps develop transportation systems that embrace all modes of transportation and efficiently maximize the mobility of people and goods throughout the urbanized area. (NCDOT)

Section 5307 (formerly Section 9) - The section of the Federal Transit Act (formerly known as the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964), as amended, that authorizes grants to public transportation systems in urbanized areas (population greater than 50,000) for both capital and operating programs based on formulas set out in statute. (APTA)

Section 5309 (formerly Section 3) - The section of the Federal Transit Act (formerly known as the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964), as amended, that authorizes discretionary funds for capital public transportation projects. (APTA)

Section 5310 (formerly Section 16) - The section of the Federal Transit Act (formerly known as the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964), as amended, that declares the national policy to be that elderly persons and persons with disabilities have the same right as other persons to utilize mass transportation facilities and services, and that special efforts shall be made in the planning and design of mass transportation facilities and services so that effective utilization by elderly persons and persons with disabilities is assured. (APTA)

Section 5310(b) (formerly Section 16(b)) - The subsection of the Federal Transit Act (formerly known as the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964), as amended, that authorizes grants to nonprofit corporations and associations for the specific purpose of assisting them in providing transportation services meeting the special needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities for whom mass transportation services are unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate. (APTA)

Section 5311 (formerly Section 18) - The section of the Federal Transit Act (formerly known as the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964), as amended, that authorizes grants to public transit systems outside urbanized areas, based on formulas set out in statute; the funds go initially to the Governor of each state. (APTA)

Section 5335 (formerly Section 15) - The section of the Federal Transit Act (formerly known as the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964), as amended, that authorizes the U.S. Department of Transportation to gather statistical information about the financing and operations of public transportation systems, based upon a uniform system of accounts and records. (APTA)

sequestration - A federal budgetary term that refers to the permanent cancellation of budget authority. (APTA)

service area - A defined area from within which the majority of transit users will travel to a particular transit facility. A service area is influenced by the level of transit service provided, destinations served, availability of adequate parking, quality and convenience of vehicular access and intermodal transfers, and the relative location and quality of other nearby competing transit facilities

service consumed - The amount of service actually used by passengers which is measured by unlinked passenger trips and passenger miles. (FTA)

service supplied - The amount of service actually made available to prospective passengers. "Service supplied" is measured in vehicles, miles and/or hours that were operated during a given period. (FTA)

service vehicles - Rolling stock or fleet vehicles used in connection with keeping revenue vehicles in operation. (FTA)

set-back - In land-use and transit planning, the distance between a property line or other boundary, such as a public street, and a building or structure.

set-to - In land-use and transit planning, an alignment which sets the maximum distance away from the property line or boundary, such as a public street, that a building or structure may be placed.

shared parking - Parking facilities that may be used by transit riders as well as patrons and workers for adjacent land uses. These facilities work best when the times and characteristics of the multiple uses do not coincide or conflict. A primary advantage of shared parking is that the facility may be financed by multiple groups rather than by one individual group.

shuttle - A public or private vehicle that travels back and forth over a particular route, especially a short route or one that provides connections between transportation systems, employment centers, etc. (APTA)

shuttle-bus service - Bus service that typically does not operate on a fixed schedule. These buses usually serve a small area and transport passengers to locations where transfers to feeder bus, rail transit or other transit service can be made.

sight line - In land-use planning, the limits, on two sides, of a visual field usually defined by opaque objects, such as buildings, that block views beyond a certain point.

sightseeing bus - A bus adapted for sightseeing use, usually with expanded window areas. (APTA)

SIP (state implementation plan) - The modeling analyses and the state and federal regulations demonstrating that the air in an area will meet national ambient air quality standards.

slow-fill - Refers to how quickly a vehicle is refueled. In the case of slow-fill, the fill normally takes several hours, such as overnight. The fuel typically is unmetered after leaving the fuel compressor. Minimal equipment, usually only a small compressor and little or no storage, is needed for slow-fill (as opposed to fast-fill).

small-area plan - Detailed land-use plans for sub-areas of a jurisdiction that illustrate specific community development priorities. The small-area plan typically addresses the broader goals of the community but also highlights unique characteristics that affect development of the particular small area. A rail transit station area plan is an example of a small-area plan.

small bus - A bus 28 feet or less in length. (APTA)

small urban area - Places of 5,000 to 49,999 urban population (except in the cases of Maine and New Hampshire) that are outside urbanized areas. As a minimum, the small urban area includes any place containing an urban population of 5,000 or more as designated by the U.S. Census Bureau. (FHWA)

SMP - State Management Plan

SOV - Single occupancy vehicle

spare vehicles - Revenue vehicles available to the transit agency to accommodate routine and heavy maintenance requirements, as well as unexpected vehicle breakdowns, accidents or incidents, while preserving scheduled service operations. (FTA)

special fuels - Consist primarily of diesel fuel with a small amount of liquefied petroleum gas, as defined by the Federal Highway Administration. (DOE)

specific public transportation - Transportation by bus, rail or any other conveyance (other than aircraft) provided by a private entity to the general public, with general or special service (including charter service) on a regular and continuing basis. (49CFR37)

standard-sized bus - A bus that is 35 to 41 feet in length. (APTA)

standing capacity - The number of standing passengers that can be accommodated aboard a revenue vehicle during a normal full load (non-crush) in accordance with established loading policies or, in absence of a policy, the manufacturer's rated standing capacity figures. (FTA)

State Implementation Plan - A state plan mandated by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) that contains procedures to monitor, control, maintain and enforce compliance with national standards for air quality. (APTA)

station - With respect to intercity and commuter rail, the portion of a property located appurtenant to a right-of-way on which intercity or commuter rail transportation is operated, where such portion is used by the general public and is related to the provision of such transportation, including passenger platforms, designated waiting areas, rest rooms and, where a public entity exercises control over the selection, the design, construction or alteration of the property. This term does not include flag stops. (49CFR37)

station area - An area surrounding a rail transit station that contains development and activities that will support high-quality transit. Station areas generally are defined as the area within a 1/2-mile radius of the station, representing about a 10-15 minute walk.

station area development plan - A plan developed and/or adopted by a municipality for the area within at least 1/2 mile surrounding a rail transit station. Station area development plans should include recommendations and/or requirements for land uses, density, circulation and other elements, as well as design guidelines or standards. Development recommendations should extend beyond the "station area" to the "support area." Also referred to as the "station area land-use plan."

station area land-use plan - See "station area development plan," above.

station concept plan - A plan for an individual rail transit station, identifying the station's location, access, circulation and parking, as well as transit facilities and amenities. Also referred to as the "station stop concept plan."

STIP - State Transportation Improvement Program

STP - Surface Transportation Program

STP-DA funds - Surface Transportation Program - Direct Apportionment funds, which MPOs may direct to priority projects.

streetcar - **1.** Another name for "light rail." (APTA) **2.** An electrically powered rail car that is operated singly or in short trains in mixed traffic on track in city streets. (TRB) **3.** Includes trolleys, streetcars and cable cars. (FHWA)

streetscape - In land-use and transit planning, the combination of building facades, signage, landscaping, street furnishings, sidewalks and other elements along a street. The quality of these elements and the degree to which they compliment each other determine the quality of the streetscape.

structured parking - Multilevel parking for personal vehicles, usually automobiles. Also referred to as "parking decks" or "parking garages."

subscription bus - A commuter bus express service operated for a guaranteed number of patrons from a given area on a prepaid, reserved basis. (APTA)

subscription service - Any public transportation service operated for a guaranteed number of patrons on a prepaid, reserved basis.

suburban bus - A bus with front doors only, normally with high-backed seats and without luggage compartments or toilet facilities for use in longer-distance service with relatively few stops. (APTA)

suburban rail - Another name for "commuter rail."

subway - **1.** That portion of a transportation system that is constructed underneath the ground surface, regardless of its method of construction. (TRB) **2.** An underground rapid rail transit system or the tunnel through which it operates. (TRB) **3.** In local usage, sometimes used for the entire rail rapid transit system of which only a portion may be beneath the ground surface. (TRB) **4.** A pedestrian underpass. (TRB) **5.** Rail transitway below surface with a cover over the tunnel. Cut and cover, bored tunnel, underwater tubes, etc. are included. (FTA)

sulfur dioxide - A heavy, pungent, colorless, gaseous air pollutant formed primarily by the combustion of fossil fuels.

supplemental appropriation - An act appropriating funds in addition to those in an annual appropriation act because the need for funds is too urgent to be postponed until enactment of the next regular appropriation act. (APTA)

support area - The regional catchment area surrounding a rail transit station. The size of the support area varies depending on the character of nearby development and natural features. Some portions may be within a 20-minute walk of the station; other portions may extend from 1/2 mile to 1 1/2 miles away from the station.

surface parking - Single-level parking for personal vehicles, located at ground level.

sustainable development - Development that meets the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. (NCDOT)

T

TAB - Transportation Advisory Board

tachograph - A device used in a vehicle to automatically record miles driven, number of stops, speed and other factors during a trip.

taxi - The use of a taxicab by a driver-for-hire or passenger for fare. Also includes airport limousines. Does not include rental cars if they are privately operated and not picking up passengers in return for fare. (FHWA)

taxicab - Vehicle primarily engaged in furnishing passenger transportation (usually automobiles, but sometimes vans or minivans) not operated on a regular schedule or between fixed terminals. Taxicab fleet owners and organizations are included, regardless of whether drivers are hired or rent their taxicabs or are otherwise compensated. (BOC)

taximeter - A mechanical or electrical device in the taxicab that records and indicates a charge or fare calculated according to distance traveled, waiting time, initial charge, number of passengers, time of day or night and/or other charges authorized by ordinance or rule. Some taximeters are part of electronic dispatching systems. (TRB)

TDM - Transportation demand management

TDP - Transportation development plan

TEA-21 - Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century

TEAM - Transportation Electronic Award and Management

technology transfer - Activities that lead to the adoption of a new technique or product by users and involves dissemination, demonstration, training and other activities that lead to eventual innovation. (23CFR420)

telecommuting - Refers to employees who work at an alternative site, such as at home, usually one or more days per month, thereby reducing their commutes.

teleservices - Communication services used to improve access to information and government services in inner cities and rural areas by providing access via the telephone, establishing mobile programs, or setting up satellite offices closer to large populations. Facilitates telecommute programs.

telework - Generally describes alternative office arrangements, such as telecommuting, hoteling, and virtual office.

telework center - A center, similar to a satellite office, that helps reduce commute times and helps alleviate city traffic and parking congestion, but is operated independently and used by numerous employers (rather than being operated by and for a single employer, as is a satellite office).

terminal - Establishments primarily engaged in the operation of motor vehicle passenger terminals and of maintenance facilities, not operated by companies that also furnish the passenger transportation. (BOC)

therm - Unit of energy measurement.

"third rail" - An electric conductor, located alongside the third running rail, from which power is collected by means of a sliding shoe attached to the truck of electric rail cars or locomotives. (TRB)

ticketing - All activities associated with fare collection and counting, including supervision and clerical support. Includes printing, distributing, selling and controlling of tickets, tokens and passes; pulling and transporting vaults to counting facilities; counting and auditing of fare collection; and providing security for the fare collection process. (FTA) Also referred to as "fare collecting."

time service begins - Start of morning transit service (i.e., the time when a revenue service vehicle leaves the garage, terminal or point of dispatch). (FTA)

time service ends - End of night transit service (i.e., the time when a revenue service vehicle returns to the garage, terminal or point of dispatch). (FTA)

TIP - Transportation Improvements Program

Title VI - Certification of non-discrimination

TLDP - Transportation Leadership Development Program

TMA (transportation management area) - An urbanized area over 200,000 in population.

TOD - Transit-oriented development

total expenses - The total fixed and variable operating expenses associated with regular fixed-route service and charter service or regular demand-response service, whichever is applicable. (NCDOT)

total miles (on an active vehicle during the period) - The total miles accumulated on all active vehicles in the group during the determined period. (FTA)

total revenue - The total revenue received by a system, including farebox revenue, auxiliary and non-transportation revenue (e.g. advertising revenue, vehicle and building rental, investments, station concessions) and charter revenue. (NCDOT)

track - The pair of rails on which railway vehicles operate.

tracked air-cushion vehicle - A laterally guided vehicle that is suspended above the track by an air cushion system. (TRB)

tracked levitated vehicle - A laterally guided vehicle that is suspended above the track by magnetic levitation. (TRB) Also see "mag-lev."

trackless trolley - Another name for "trolleybus." (APTA)

traffic circle - A circular island located in the center of intersections of roadways, discouraging through traffic and forcing drivers to reduce travel speed as they maneuver around the island. These circles often are used as traffic-calming devices, but they also can serve as interesting focal points in long street vistas, if they are well landscaped and incorporate fountains, statues or other appealing structures.

traffic count - A record of the number of vehicles, people aboard vehicles or both that pass a given checkpoint during a given time period. (TRB)

tramway - Another name for "light rail."

transfer center - A fixed location where passengers interchange from one route or transit vehicle to another. (APTA)

transfer charge - An extra fee charged for a transfer to use when boarding another transit vehicle to continue a trip. (APTA)

transfer of development rights (or TDR) - An administrative program or regulatory procedure by which an owner of environmentally sensitive land sells the land's development potential to an owner of land where higher density development is desirable. (NCDOT)

transit (or public transit) - Another name for "public transportation," generally used in contexts which do not include carpools or vanpools. (APTA)

"Transit 2000" - A transit industry effort undertaken in the late 1980s and early 1990s to develop public policies allowing transit to achieve its greatest potential for the rest of the 20th century and beyond; recommendations included turning transit systems into managers of mobility, broadening transit's definition to include ridesharing and other high-occupancy vehicle programs, enhancing local decision-making authority, increasing federal funding and raising the federal gasoline tax. (APTA)

"Transit 2001" - Effort to improve public transportation in North Carolina begun in February 1997 based upon the findings and recommendations of the Transit 2001 Committee's report and action agenda submitted to the governor.

transit agency - See "public transportation agency."

transit bus - A bus designed for frequent-stop service with front and center doors, normally with a rear-mounted diesel engine, low-backed seating and without luggage storage compartments or toilet facilities. Includes motor buses and trolley coaches. (APTA)

transit-friendly development - See "transit-oriented development," below.

transit mall - A type of exclusive right-of-way reserved for transit vehicles in revenue service and pedestrian traffic. (FTA)

transit mode - Generally defined as urban and rural public transportation services, including commuter trains, ferry service, heavy or rapid rail and light rail or streetcar systems, taxicabs and local buses and/or vans. (BTS)

transit-oriented development (TOD) - A mixed-use community or neighborhood surrounding a transit station, stop or route that is designed to encourage transit use and pedestrian activity. It usually is developed with sufficient density in terms of: residents or employees per acre, number of trips serviceable by transit, mix of uses within walking distance of one another, and pedestrian-oriented design characteristics. Also called "transit-friendly" or "transit-supportive" development, and sometimes referred to as relating to "neotraditional development" or "new urbanism."

transit pass - A tax-free employee commute benefit in which an employer subsidizes an employee's transit fares or vanpool charges. This benefit also applies to military and federal government employees, and state and local government employees in some locations. (APTA)

transit property - All facilities which are controlled directly by a transit agency (agency is responsible for cleaning or maintaining) or provided to a transit agency for its use by another public or private entity (formal/informal agreement with the owner wherein services or facilities are provided to benefit the transit agency). This includes stations, exclusive right-of-ways, bus stops and maintenance facilities. (FTA)

transit property damage - Any damage to transit property that requires the repair or replacement of transit agency vehicles or facilities (track, signals, buildings) to a state that is equivalent to the one which existed prior to the incident. (FTA)

transit railroad (also transit railway) - Includes heavy transit rail and light transit rail. (DOE)

transit stop - A point along a transit route where passengers load or unload. These stops include those for commuter and regional rail transit, light-rail transit, vans and buses.

transit-supportive development - See "transit-oriented development," above.

transit system - An organization (public or private) providing local or regional multi-occupancy-vehicle passenger services. Organizations that provide services under contract to another agency generally are not counted a separate system from the contracting agency. (APTA)

transit trip - A one-way trip by a transit vehicle in revenue service starting at one terminal point of a route and ending at another terminal point. A round trip is counted as two separate trips. In the case where the route is a loop involving entirely different streets and pick-up points, and where there is no logical way to identify the terminal points, then the traversing of the loop can be regarded as a single trip. (FTA) Also see "passenger trip," or "unlinked trip."

transit zones - Local travel zones by which transit fares may be determined. In the transit zone system, passenger fares usually are increased for trips between zones. Also called "fare zones."

transitway - 1. Another name for "high-occupancy vehicle lane." (APTA) **2.** A dedicated right-of-way, most commonly in a transit mall, which is used by transit vehicles, usually mixed with pedestrian traffic. (TRB)

transponder - A piece of equipment which, when set upon a specific radio frequency, emits a directional signal of its own and enables the receiver to track or monitor the vehicle's location. (BOC)

Transport Workers Union - One of the major labor unions in the transit industry; membership is limited to operators, mechanics and other non-supervisory employees of the transit industry. (APTA)

transportation broker - **1.** Coordination of transportation services in a defined area. The transportation broker may centralize vehicle dispatch, record keeping, vehicle maintenance and other functions under contractual arrangement with agencies, municipalities and other organizations. (TRB) **2.** A method of matching travelers with a variety of transportation providers through the use of central dispatching and administrative facilities. (TRB)

transportation demand management (TDM) - Program designed to maximize the people-moving capability of the transportation system by increasing the number of people in each vehicle or by influencing the time of, or need to, travel. To accomplish these sorts of changes, TDM programs must rely on incentives or disincentives to make the shifts in behavior attractive. The term TDM encompasses both the alternatives to driving alone and the techniques or supporting strategies that encourage the use of these modes. (NCDOT)

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - As stated in FHWA-UMTA joint regulations that govern transportation programming, a prioritized program of transportation projects to be implemented in appropriate stages over several years (3 to 5 years). The projects are recommended from those in the transportation systems management element and the long-range element of the planning process. This program is required as a condition for a locality to receive federal transit and highway grants. (TRB) Note: In North Carolina, the state Department of Transportation produces an updated statewide TIP detailing highway, airport, ferry, bicycle, pedestrian, rail and transit improvements planned or programmed for the short and long term. North Carolina's TIP is published each year in late spring/early summer.

transportation management area (TMA) - An urbanized area with a population more than 200,000 (as determined by the most recent decennial census) or other area when TMA-designation is requested by the Governor and the MPO (or affected local officials), and officially designated by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. TMA designation applies to the entire metropolitan planning area(s). (23CFR500)

travel day - The 24-hour period beginning at 4 a.m. and ending at 3:59 a.m., designated as the reference period for studying trips and travel. (FHWA)

travel density - The average number of vehicle miles driven on a section of highway each day divided by the length of the section in miles. It is expressed as a number of vehicles and may be referred to as "average daily traffic." (FHWA)

TRB - Transportation Research Board

trip - See "passenger trip" or "transit trip."

trip distribution - In planning, the process of estimating movement of trips between zones, modes or areas by using surveys or models. (TRB)

trip generation - In planning, the determination or prediction of the number of trips produced by and attracted to each zone, mode or area. (TRB)

trip type - One of two: "intercity" or "city." Trip type often is subdivided into "charter" or "scheduled" service. (FHWA)

trolley (trolley car or trolley coach) - Another name for "light rail." (APTA)

trolley replica - A type of vehicle having the appearance of a trolley or streetcar but that has rubber tires and is powered by diesel, gasoline, propane or alternative fuel engine contained within the vehicle. Trolley replicas are classified as a motor bus mode in the National Transit Database system. (FTA) Trolley replicas often are used in downtown, shopping and historic districts.

trolley bus - Rubber-tired passenger vehicle operating singly on city streets. They are driven electrically with power being drawn from an overhead electric line via trolleys. (FTA)

trust fund - Accounts established by law to hold receipts that are collected by government and earmarked for specific purposes and programs. These receipts are not available for the general purposes of the government. For example, the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund is comprised of receipts from certain highway user taxes (e.g., excise taxes on motor fuels) and reserved for use for transit capital projects and related purposes. (NCDOT) **Also:** Funds collected and used by the federal government for carrying out specific purposes and programs according to terms of a trust agreement or statute, such as the Social Security and highway trust funds. Trust funds are administered by the government in a fiduciary capacity and are not available for the general purposes of the government. See "Dedicated Funding Source." (APTA)

U

ultra-low emission vehicle - A clean-fuel vehicle meeting the stringent, ultra-low emission standards of the U.S. Department of Energy. (DOE)

United States Code - Contains a consolidation and codification of all general and permanent laws of the United States. (USCG)

United Transportation Union - One of the major labor unions in the transit industry; membership is limited to operators, mechanics and other nonsupervisory employees of the transit industry. (APTA)

unlinked passenger trip - The number of passengers who board public transportation vehicles. A passenger is counted each time she or he boards a vehicle even though she or he may be on the same journey from origin to destination. (FTA)

UPTAS - Uniform Public Transportation Accounting System

UPWP (Unified Planning Work Program) - An accounting document for the use of planning grant funds. It lists approved activities that these funds may reimburse and guides transportation planning activities for the year.

urban - 1. Usually refers to areas with populations of 5,000 or more. (DOE) **2.** Describes any area that includes a municipality or other built-up place which is appropriate in the judgement of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, for a public transportation system to serve commuters or others in the locality taking into consideration the local patterns and trends of urban growth. (FTA)

Urban Mass Transportation Administration - Former name for the USDOT Federal Transit Administration. Name change occurred in 1964 by enactment of Section 6(a) of the Urban Mass Transportation Act.

urban place - A U.S. Census Bureau-designated area consisting of incorporated political units or closely settled areas outside an urbanized area. (APTA)

urbanized area (UZA) - 1. Places with populations of 50,000 or more (at a minimum), that encompass an entire urbanized area in a state, as designated by the U.S. Census Bureau. (FHWA) **2.** The Federal Highway Administration approves adjusted urbanized-area boundaries that include the census-defined Urbanized Area plus transportation centers, shopping centers, major places of employment, satellite communities and other major trip generators near the edge of the Urbanized Area, including development expected to be in place shortly. (FHWA)

Urbanized Area Formula Program funds - Financial assistance from the Urbanized Area Formula Program (formerly Section 9). This program governs the distribution of public transit capital and block-grant appropriations by urbanized area. For this distribution, it is the federal capital assistance granted to public transit providers to designated recipients on behalf of transit providers. (FTA)

USC – United States Code

USDOT– United States Department of Transportation

UZA - urbanized area (by definition of the U.S. Census Bureau).

V

van - 1. A 20-foot long or shorter vehicle, usually with an automotive-type engine and limited seating that normally is entered directionally through side or rear doors rather than from a central aisle, used for demand-responsive, vanpool and lightly patronized motor bus service. (APTA) **2.** Vehicle having a typical seating capacity of five to 15 passengers and classified as a van by the vehicle manufacturer. A modified van is a standard van that has undergone some structural changes, usually made to increase its size and particularly its height. The seating capacity of modified vans is approximately nine to 18 passengers. (FTA) Modified vans also may be referred to as "cutaway vans."

vanpool - 1. A voluntary commuter ridesharing arrangement, using vans with a seating capacity greater than seven persons (including the driver) or buses, which provides transportation to a group of people traveling directly from their homes (or a pre-arranged meeting place, such as a park-and-ride lot) to their regular places of work within the same geographical area, and in which the commuter/driver does not receive compensation beyond reimbursement for his or her costs of providing the service. (49CFR37) **2.** An arrangement in which a group of passengers share the use and cost of a van in traveling to and from pre-arranged destinations together. (APTA) **3.** Vans and/or Class C motor buses operating as a voluntary commuter ride-sharing arrangement, which provides transportation to a group of individuals traveling directly between their homes (or a prearranged meeting place, such as a park-and-ride lot) and their regular places of work within the same geographical area. The vans should have a seating capacity greater than seven people, including the driver. (FTA) **4.** A public-sponsored commuter service operating under prearranged schedules for previously formed groups of riders in eight to 18-seat vehicles. Drivers also are commuters who may receive little or no compensation besides free transportation and use of the vehicle during "off" hours. (FTA) Generally, carpooling agreements are not arranged by contract, whereas vanpool and buspool agreements are contractually binding.

variable cost - A cost that varies in relation to the level of operational activity. (APTA)

vehicle maintenance - All activities associated with revenue and non-revenue (service) vehicle maintenance, including administration, inspection and maintenance and servicing (cleaning, fueling, etc.) vehicles. In addition, it includes repairs due to vandalism and accident repairs of revenue vehicles. (FTA)

vehicle miles - The total number of miles traveled by transit vehicles. Commuter rail, heavy rail and light rail report individual car miles rather than train miles for vehicle miles. (FTA)

vehicle miles of travel (VMT) - 1. The number of miles traveled within a specific geographic location (such as within North Carolina) by vehicles for a period of one year. VMT is calculated either by using two odometer readings or, in the absence of one of the odometer readings, by regression estimate. (DOE) **2.** One vehicle traveling the distance of one mile. Total vehicle miles, thus, is the total mileage traveled by all vehicles. (DOE)

vehicle miles operated - Sum of all miles operated by passenger transit vehicles, including mileage when no passengers are carried. When vehicles are operated in trains, each vehicle is counted separately (e.g., an eight-vehicle train operating for one mile equals eight vehicle miles). (APTA)

vehicle operations - All activities associated with the subcategories of the vehicle operations function: transportation administration and support; revenue vehicle operation; ticketing and fare collection; and system security. (FTA)

vehicle revenue miles/hours - The miles/hours a vehicle travels while in revenue service. Vehicle revenue miles/hours exclude travel to and from storage facilities, training operators prior to revenue service, road tests and deadhead travel, as well as school bus and charter services. (FTA)

vehicle trip - A trip by a single vehicle regardless of the number of people in the vehicle. (FHWA)

vehicles available for maximum service - The number of revenue vehicles available to meet annual maximum service requirements. This includes spares, out-of-service vehicles and vehicles in or awaiting maintenance, but excludes vehicles awaiting sale and emergency contingency vehicles. (FTA)

vehicles in total fleet - All revenue vehicles held at the end of the fiscal year, including those in storage, emergency contingency and awaiting sale. (FTA)

vehicles operated in maximum service - The number of revenue vehicles operated to meet annual maximum service requirements. This is the revenue vehicle count during the peak season of the year, on the week and day that maximum service is provided. Vehicles operated in maximum service exclude atypical days or one-time special events. (FTA)

virtual office - A type of telecommute in which workers are equipped with the tools, technology and skills to perform their jobs from anywhere the person has to be -- home, office or customer's location. Also known as a "mobile office."

W – X – Y

walkable - Refers to a single route, or a system of routes, between points that is relatively short, barrier-free, interesting, safe, well-lighted and comfortable, inviting pedestrian travel.

walkable community - Communities that incorporate the principles of pedestrian-oriented development.

wheelchair - A mobility aid belonging to any class of three or four-wheeled devices, usable indoors, designed for and used by people with mobility impairments, whether operated manually or powered. A "common wheelchair" is such a device that does not exceed 30 inches in width and 48 inches in length, measured two inches above the ground, and does not weigh more than 600 pounds when occupied. (49CFR37)

wheelchair-accessible vehicle - A vehicle that a person using a wheelchair may enter either via an on-board retractable lift or ramp; or directly from a station platform that is accessible by elevator or a ramp that is either level with the vehicle floor or can be raised to floor level. (APTA)

women's business enterprise - A business owned and operated by one or more women.

Z

zero-emission vehicle - A clean-fuel vehicle meeting very stringent zero-emission vehicle standards set by the U.S. Department of Energy. (DOE)

zone - See "transit zone" for uses relating to the provision of transit service or "zoning" for uses relating to land use.

zone charge - An extra fee for crossing a pre-determined boundary (such as a transit zone). (APTA) Also see "transit zone."

zone fares - A system of fares where a transit system's service area is divided into zones within which specified rates or fares apply. (APTA)

zoning - In land-use and transit planning, the basic means of land-use control employed by local governments. Zoning divides the community into districts (zones) and imposes different land-use controls on each district.